

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1563

To establish a coordinated program of science-based countermeasures to address the threats of agricultural bioterrorism.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2001

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. MILLER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To establish a coordinated program of science-based countermeasures to address the threats of agricultural bioterrorism.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Agricultural Bioter-
5 rorism Countermeasures Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the events of September 11, 2001, have
9 heightened awareness of the threat of acts of bioter-

1 rorism, including attacks directed at the domestic
2 food supply and underlying agriculture;

3 (2) evidence of access to and rudimentary ex-
4 periments with chemical and biological agents and
5 the reported interest in the operation of cropdusting
6 aircraft point to possible terrorist intent to use bio-
7 logical or chemical weapons;

8 (3) an attack of agricultural bioterrorism would
9 pose serious challenges such as—

10 (A) hazards to human health;

11 (B) erosion of public confidence in the
12 safety of the domestic food supply; and

13 (C) damage to the economy;

14 (4) it is important to develop short- and long-
15 term strategies and supporting technology to more
16 effectively and efficiently protect the domestic food
17 supply from acts of bioterrorism;

18 (5) a program of ongoing research and develop-
19 ment is required to reduce the vulnerability of plant
20 and animal agriculture and the food supply; and

21 (6) it is critical to bring Federal, academic, and
22 private sector capacities to bear on the threat of ag-
23 ricultural bioterrorism.

24 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to strengthen the research and development
2 capacity of the United States to respond to the
3 threat of agricultural bioterrorism;

4 (2) to promote the collaboration between the
5 Federal, academic, and private sectors in addressing
6 agricultural bioterrorism; and

7 (3) to strengthen the capacity of regulatory
8 agencies to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the
9 consequences of a bioterrorist attack.

10 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.**

11 In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Sec-
12 retary of Agriculture.

13 **SEC. 4. INTRAMURAL AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM RE-**
14 **SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall expand Agri-
16 cultural Research Service programs to protect the domes-
17 tic food supply by—

18 (1) enhancing the capability to respond imme-
19 diately to the needs of regulatory agencies involved
20 in protecting the food supply;

21 (2) cooperating with academic and private sec-
22 tor partners to maximize the impact of research and
23 development;

1 (3) strengthening linkages with the intelligence
2 community to better identify research needs and
3 evaluate acquired materials;

4 (4) expanding the involvement of the Agricultural
5 Research Service with international organizations
6 dealing with plant and animal disease control;
7 and

8 (5) taking other appropriate measures.

9 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
10 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
11 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

12 **SEC. 5. CONSORTIUM FOR COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST**
13 **AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
15 a Consortium for Countermeasures Against Agricultural
16 Bioterrorism to help form stable long-term programs of
17 research, development, and evaluation of options to en-
18 hance the biosecurity of United States agriculture.

19 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium shall be
21 comprised of institutions of higher education posi-
22 tioned to partner with Federal agencies to address
23 agricultural bioterrorism.

24 (2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall des-
25 ignate for membership in the Consortium—

1 (A) 3 institutions of higher education that
2 are national centers for countermeasures
3 against agricultural bioterrorism; and

4 (B) not more than 7 additional institutions
5 of higher education with existing programs re-
6 lating to agricultural bioterrorism.

7 (3) NATIONAL CENTERS.—The national centers
8 shall be selected using the following criteria:

9 (A) Co-location of Department of Agri-
10 culture laboratories or training centers on mem-
11 ber campuses.

12 (B) Demonstrated expertise in the area of
13 plant and animal diseases.

14 (C) Strong linkages with animal and plant
15 diagnostic laboratories.

16 (D) Close coordination with State coopera-
17 tive extension programs that work in coopera-
18 tion with industry, farm and commodity organi-
19 zations, and regulatory agencies.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

1 **SEC. 6. AGRICULTURAL BIOTERRORISM COMPETITIVE RE-**
2 **SEARCH GRANTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enhance the
4 National Research Initiative of the Competitive Grants
5 Program of the Cooperative State Research, Education,
6 and Extension Service by awarding grants focused on the
7 science and technology needed to protect against and deal
8 with acts of bioterrorism directed at the domestic food
9 supply and agriculture.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

13 **SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH IN-**
14 **SPECTION SERVICE ACTIVITIES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enhance and
16 expand the capacity of the Animal and Plant Health In-
17 spection Service by—

18 (1) increasing inspection capacity at inter-
19 national points of origin;

20 (2) improving surveillance at ports of entry and
21 customs;

22 (3) enhancing methods of protecting against in-
23 troduction of plant and animal disease organisms by
24 terrorists;

25 (4) adopting new strategies and technology for
26 dealing with outbreaks of plant and animal disease

1 arising from acts of terrorism or from unintentional
2 introduction, including—

3 (A) establishing cooperative agreements
4 among Veterinary Services of the Animal and
5 Plant Health Inspection Service, State animal
6 health commissions and regulatory agencies for
7 livestock and poultry health, and private veteri-
8 nary practitioners to enhance the preparedness
9 and ability of Veterinary Services and the com-
10 missions and agencies to respond to outbreaks
11 of such animal diseases; and

12 (B) strengthen the planning and coordina-
13 tion with State and local agencies, including—

14 (i) State animal health commissions
15 and regulatory agencies for livestock and
16 poultry health; and

17 (ii) State agriculture departments;

18 and

19 (5) strengthening the planning and coordination
20 with relevant State and local agencies, including—

21 (A) State animal health commissions and
22 regulatory agencies for livestock and poultry
23 health; and

24 (B) State agriculture departments; and

25 (6) taking other appropriate measures.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

4 **SEC. 8. EXPANSION OF FOOD SAFETY INSPECTION SERVICE**
5 **ACTIVITIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enhance and
7 expand the capacity of the Food Safety Inspection Service
8 by—

9 (1) enhancing the ability to inspect and ensure
10 the safety and wholesomeness of meat and poultry
11 products;

12 (2) developing new methods for rapid detection
13 and identification of diseases and other hazardous
14 agents;

15 (3) applying new technologies to improve ante
16 mortem and post mortem inspection procedures;

17 (4) improving the capacity to inspect inter-
18 national meat and poultry products at points of ori-
19 gin and at ports of entry; and

20 (5) strengthening collaboration among agencies
21 within the Department of Agriculture and in other
22 parts of Federal and State government through the
23 sharing of information and technology.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$140,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

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